

Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7522

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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POUCHED AS INFO TO ALL CONSULATES IN CANADA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, CA, UR

SUBJ: CLC PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO USSR

REF: OTTAWA 3152

CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS (CLC) PRESIDENT MORRIS GAVE LABATT BACKGROUND THAT LED TO DECISION ACCEPT AUCCTU INVITATION TO VISIT USSR LAST MONTH. FOLLOWING SEVERAL LOWER-LEVEL EXCHANGE VISITS WITH SOVIET LABOR GROUPS (CANADIAN STEELWORKERS HOSTED FIRST GROUP SEVERAL YEARS AGO WHEN SOVIET DEL UNABLE TO VISIT U.S.), PRESSURE DEVELOPED WITHIN CLC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR HIGH-LEVEL TEAM TO ACCEPT LONG-STANDING AUCCTU INVITATION. WHEN CANADIAN LETTER CARRIERS UNION INSISTED ON BRINGING SOVIET LABOR DEL TO CLC HQ LAST SPRING, MORRIS RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO ACCEPT RENEWED INVITATION. AT JULY MEETING OF GLC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MAJORITY OF MEMBERS URGED THAT TRIP BE UNDERTAKEN DURIN SUMMER HIATUS AND TO BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH 1974 CLC CONVENTION RESOLUTION CALLING FOR SUCH EXCHANGES BEFORE ISSUE RAISED AGAIN AT NEXT YEAR'S CONVENTION. MORRIS WAS

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SOMEWHAT IMPRESSED BY SOVIET WORKING AND LIVING

STANDARDS AND THE LIMITED PREROGATIVES IN SOCIAL SECURITY
FIELD RESERVED FOR LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, BUT HE ALSO HAD
HIS BASIC ATTACHMENT TO FREE TRADE UNIONISM IN A
DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY EMPHATICALLY RECONFIRMED. COMMENT: NOW
THAT CLC TOP LEADERSHIP HAS CROSSED THE RUBICON
AFFILIATED UNIONS WILL FEEL LESS CONSTRAINT TO ENGAGE IN SUCH
EXCHANGES. A "RETURN VISIT" BY A HIGH LEVEL AUCCTU
DEL WITHIN THE NEXT YEAR HAS BECOME A DISCONTACT
POSSIBILITY. PORTER

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